

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 15, 2003 LB 402, 404, 405, 406, 759
 LR 175-186

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may.

CLERK: Mr. President, Enrollment and Review reports LB 402, LB 404, LB 405, LB 406 correctly engrossed. Study resolutions, LR 175-186, all will be referred to the Executive Board. (Legislative Journal pages 1862-1868.)

Mr. President, next amendment, Senator Hartnett. I understand you want to withdraw your amendment, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett. Senator Hartnett. Senator Hartnett, did you wish to withdraw your amendment? It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Next amendment, Senator Stuhr, AM1832. (Legislative Journal page 1736.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr,...

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr...

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...to open on AM1832.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I am going to be withdrawing this amendment, but I did want to share with you that my plan was to look at the earmarks of the cigarette tax. And there have been several proposals that we have looked at in eliminating those earmarks completely. And what this amendment would have done is reduce those earmarks by 10 percent. And when we drew up the amendment last week, we had not made the previous cuts. We were looking at an amount of about \$8.4 million that could have gone into the General Fund. With some of the things that have taken place since then, that amount would be reduced to about \$7 million. I know that it's a very controversial issue and I...we will not pursue that at this time. However, I do want to state that I think it is time that we look at those earmarks. I do feel very strongly that some of those earmarks and more of them should relate to health and welfare. And possibly just as the amendment we were looking at, Senator Bromm's on the tobacco prevention, it seems appropriate that...those funds would come out somewhere of this earmark.